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SOUTH VIET NAM
In Struggle

6th Year — July ... 1972

No 155

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

CHAIRMAN NGUYEN HUU THO interviewed by *AFP*

On June 12, 1972, through the PRG Special Representation in DRVN, Mr. Joel Henri Hanoi AFP correspondent, wanted to interview Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam NLF and President of PRG Advisory Council. Following are the answers of the Chairman to questions asked by AFP correspondent.

Q. 1 — Is the current wave of offensives unfolding according to plan?

A. — The South Viet Nam armed forces and people are on the offensive. Theirs is a winning position, which is on the upgrade. The enemy are on the defensive. Theirs is a losing position, which is on the downgrade. Over the past weeks, we have achieved substantial gains of strategic significance. These will be followed up with further vigorous attacks and uprisings.

Q. 2 — Have you got any logistical problems?

A. — Logistical problems are inherent in any military plan. The side which finds satisfactory answers to them commands additional factors of success.

The US aggressors and their Saigonese clients are meeting serious difficulties in this respect. They have to get their supplies including food and drinking water from remote places like the US, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand. Moreover, their storages on our territory come under constant attack from the Liberation forces, and the land, air and water communications between them and various battlefields are frequently harassed and cut off by our troops. Such a state of things is depleting their men of their fighting capacity and lowering their morale. As far as the Liberation forces are concerned, their system of logistics is what we call "on-the-spot logistics." It is the people who supply them, who feed them. And they do this of their own free will, inspired by the "everything for the front, everything for our victory over the US aggressors" watchword.

Considerable aid has been coming to us from North Viet Nam and friends all over the world. It is to interdict its flow that the US has stepped up its air and naval war. Some years ago, Johnson already failed in this wild goose chase. Nixon is not faring and will not fare better.

I wish to mention another source of our supplies: the US aggressors themselves and their agents. "Capture enemy weapons to wipe out the enemy with" has always been a guideline of our logistics.

Q. 3 — May we say that your current offensives' aim is a political one, that is, for instance, the formation of a national concord government?

A. — The purpose of our fight is to force the Americans to respect all the fundamental national rights and right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese. And it is a three-fold effort: military, political and diplomatic.

There is no doubt that if the US ends its aggression, its "Vietnamization" and its involvement in South Viet Nam, peace will be restored at once with the formation of a tripartite national concord government.

Q. 4 — Would the present wave of attacks have taken place if the Americans had agreed to an arrangement based on the 7 points?

A. — As I have just said, if Mr Nixon had given a serious response to our peace initiative, the guns would have stopped booming on our soil.

Q. 5 — May one say that the "national concord government" formula is one which can safeguard US interests? How can it?

A. — Our seven points and our 2-point elaboration have suggested the establishment of a tripartite national concord government which will be entrusted with the organization of a really free, democratic and fair general election in South Viet Nam. An independent and neutral South Viet Nam will maintain political, economic relations with all countries including the USA, irrespective of their social and political systems and on the basis of the 5 principles of peaceful co-existence.

Thus, the solution proposed by the 7 points will extricate the US from the Viet Nam morass in an honourable way, consistent with its long-term interests in Viet Nam, Indochina and Southeast Asia.

Q. 6 — Should the PRG give a guaranty to the component made up by the Saigon administration in the national concord government? Through that of the third component?

A. — In the proposed national concord government, the component made up by the Saigon administration, Thieu excluded naturally, will consist of personalities of its own choice. The third component comprises individuals or representatives of political, social, religious forces including those who have had to take up residence abroad for political reasons. They must stand for peace, independence, neutrality and democracy. They should neither belong to the Saigon regime nor the PRG, and free from either's control.

Such a broad composition is in keeping with the aspiration for national concord of the South Vietnamese and with the present political juncture in South Viet Nam. Its very character is a relevant answer to Mr Nixon's charge that we want to "impose a Communist government" in South Viet Nam.

It is the US administration which has been trying its best to force by means of its "Vietnamization" the South Vietnamese to accept the quisling regime of Nguyen Van Thieu, an instrument for its neo-colonialism. Mr Nixon's May 8, 1972 address was in essence an ultimatum calling for a "cease-fire" in South Viet Nam, and for the South Vietnamese people's surrender and acceptance of the US - installed Thieu rule.

We, like our fellow-countrymen of the North, have unequivocally rejected the US president's arrogant demand. With the wholehearted assistance of our Northern kith and kin, with the sympathy and support of our friends in the five continents we shall keep up our effort, "until the Yanks quit and the puppets topple," until genuine independence and freedom is achieved, until our sacred national rights are fully respected.

I seize this opportunity to convey to the French people who have been supporting our just cause and granting for several years the most cordial hospitality to our Vietnamese delegations to the Paris Conference, the expression of our sincere gratitude and our best congratulations on the occasion of France National Day, July 14, and the 183rd anniversary of the capture of La Bastille and of the 1789 immortal Revolution.

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THE BIG BOMB

IN this report I summarized our findings about a new bomb in the U.S. arsenal, a bomb unique to the Second Indochinese War. Owing to the paucity of information domestically available, I describe in some detail the bomb's general characteristics and employment.

The BLU-82/B general-purpose high-explosive concussion bomb turns out to be one of the most awesome and least publicized weapons to have been spawned by the war. It is a bomb with record-breaking dimensions: It is 4.5 feet in diameter, over 11 feet long, and weighs 15,000 pounds. Within its thin steel case are 12,600 pounds of a special, dense blasting agent (DBA-22M) consisting of a gelled aqueous slurry of ammonium nitrate and aluminum powder (plus a binding agent). This formulation provides a concussive blast surpassed only by that of a nuclear bomb.

Often referred to in Viet Nam as the "Daisy Cutter" and sometimes as the "Cheeseburger," this super bomb is delivered by C-130E aircraft (of the 463rd Wing of the Seventh Air Force flying out of Cam Ranh Bay air base). Even though the bomb is floated to the ground by parachute from altitudes of 7,000 to 10,000 feet and occasionally even over 20,000 feet, the Seventh Air Force claims that the point of impact seldom is more than 300 feet off target and usually less than 150 feet. Timing of the drop is determined by ground radar.

The Daisy Cutter was developed primarily for the instant creation of clearings in dense jungle. Such clearings can then be used immediately as a landing zone by assault helicopters in locations inaccessible to conventional land-clearing equipment and techniques. The progenitor of this unique bomb was the 10,000 pound "blockbuster" bomb of World War II. Several dozen or more of these bombs were left over from that conflict. These were used in Indochina on an experimental basis, apparently beginning in 1967. The presently used BLU-82B was developed and became operational in early 1970.

The bomb is detonated by an impact fuse at the end of an attached three-foot probe which sets off the main charge simultaneously at both ends of the bomb just above the ground. If all goes well, the resulting radial blast leaves no crater, but rather uproots and blows away all trees and other obstructions—even in heavy jungle—to create a virtually perfect clearing about the size of a football field. Although the size of each clearing differs, of course, according to local conditions of terrain and vegetation, the average radius of the opening, according to the Air Force, is about 160 feet, and its area thus about two acres. No fires are reported to have been set by these bombs and only minimal charring occurs. The blast is spectacular: A mushroom cloud rises some 6,000 feet into the air, and light aircraft flying more than two miles from the explosion are badly shaken by the shockwave. The landing zone, suitable for landing within minutes of the blast, can accommodate one to several assault helicopters at a time. The military code name for such an operation is "Commando Vault."

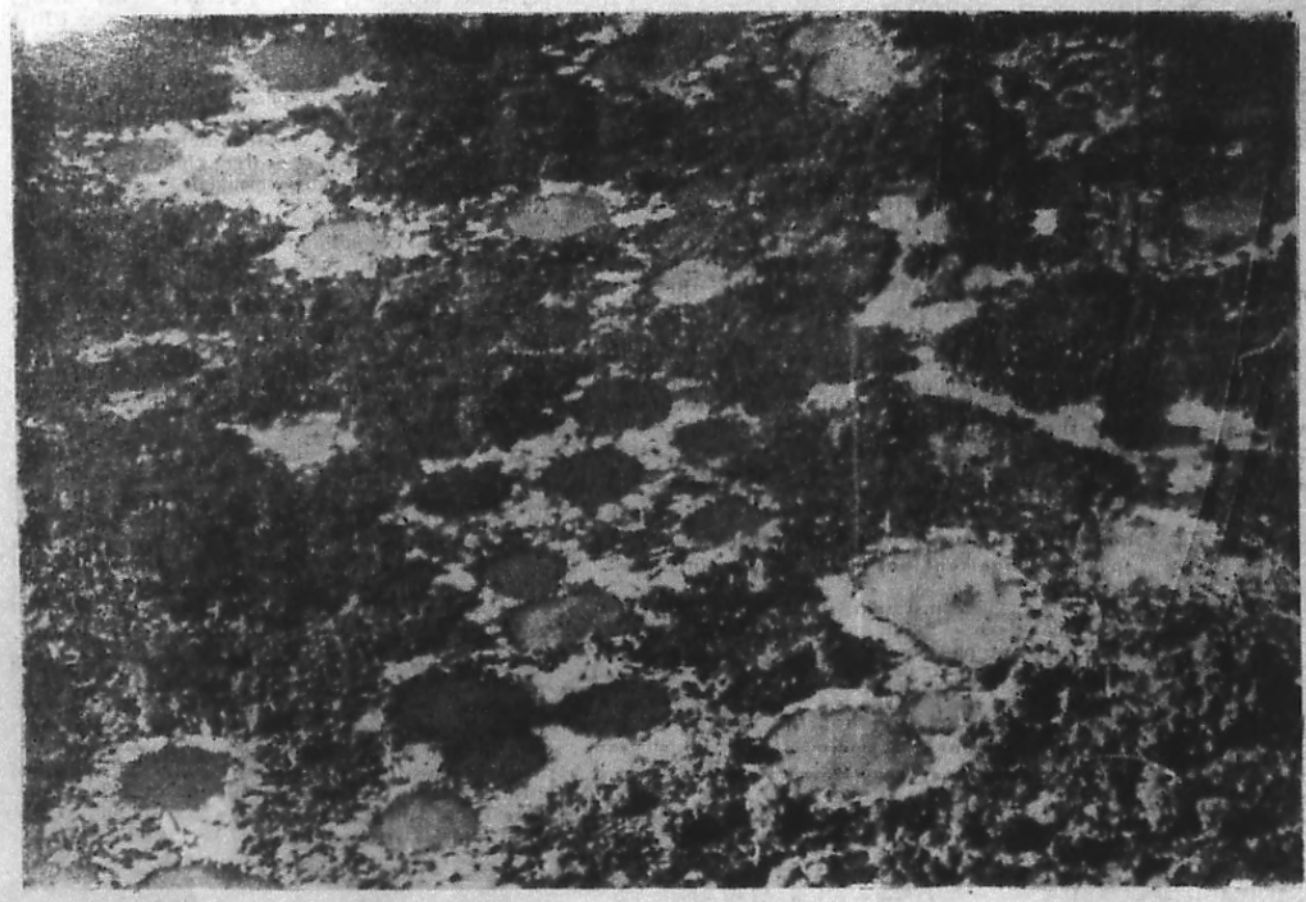
According to the Seventh Air Force, the average rate of use of the Daisy Cutters in South Viet Nam has been one to two per week in recent months. (We were made aware of five drops during a one-week period in mid-August). Although the total number of drops to date is classified information, an official spokesman for the U.S. Military Assistance Command in Viet Nam (MACV) informed me that it is well in excess of 100. One press report claims that 160 drops occurred prior to June of 1970 (*Los Angeles Times*, June 1, 1970, p.20). Most of the drops in South Viet Nam have occurred in the northern half of the country and in the delta region to the South (Military Regions I, II and IV). Information on the drops in Cambodia and Laos was not made available to us.

In the briefing we received on the Commando Vault operations, an official spokesman for the Seventh Air Force stressed and restressed that use of the Daisy Cutters was restricted to the creation of landing zones and that they were nothing more than "explosive bulldozers." He went into some detail on how the local populace is always alerted prior to a drop. On the other hand, we learned from another local Air Force source that exceedingly strict security is always maintained before a drop to avoid alerting the enemy; the flight crew does not even receive the target location or drop time until just before takeoff.

The Daisy Cutter is officially designated as a general purpose bomb and has been used in a number of ways in Indochina beyond the creation of landing zones. One Air Force report explains that the bomb can be used for road interdiction by triggering landslides. In the Hanoi press this part spring (in an otherwise unconfirmed report) there is a description of the obliteration of an entire hamlet in Laos by this means. We also learned from three independent sources (two military and one embassy) that the Daisy Cutter has been and is being employed against enemy or suspected enemy concentrations. Moreover, in one of the Commando Vault missions we inspected from the air, the bomb had been dropped, according to our official military guide, onto a suspected enemy rocket emplacement. This mission had been carried out in June of this year in Quang Nam province nineteen miles southwest of Da Nang. The antipersonnel use of this bomb has also been reported in the press (for example, *New York Times*, Apr. 13, 1971, p. 1; Apr. 15, 1971, p. 5; Apr. 18, 1971, p. E2). Press reports describe one additional use for the bomb, that of removing the thick jungle canopy above suspected enemy storage areas (*New York Times*, April 15, 1971, p. 5).

What is the environmental impact of a Daisy Cutter? Here I am chagrined to report that of the scores of Commando Vault missions, old and new, no site could be found by MACV in an area secure enough for us to visit. US citizens are generally not aware that the National Liberation Front controls virtually all of the forest and other wild lands of South Viet Nam. Moreover, we could find no one who had examined or even thought about these sites with ecology in mind, not even the MACV science advisor or his staff. Although the immediate overt impact is easy to surmise, the more subtle and long-term effects must await further study.

According to an official Seventh Air Force source, the blast of a Daisy Cutter is of such intensity that all terrestrial and arboreal wildlife (as well as any luckless humans) within a radius of approximately 3,280 feet are killed outright by the concussive shockwave. The lethal zone from one such bomb thus covers an area of about 776 acres. Beyond this circle of death, concussion injury diminishes to insignificance radially outward for a distance of another 1,640 feet or so. This larger area of both death and injury to wildlife thus encompasses about 1,746 acres per bomb. Assuming that the



US bombs dug over 20 million craters on our land

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total number of bomb drops to date has been 150, the forest area totally eliminated by this means has been only about 300 acres. Of much greater concern, all the wildlife occupying 116,400 acres or more have been killed. The wildlife on again as much area have sustained injuries. The Daisy Cutter thus adds significantly to the already severe stress imposed by the war on Viet Nam's wildlife.

With respect to the vegetation, my information on damage is less complete. The innermost circle of two acres is, of course, totally annihilated. (One press report claims that even the worms in the ground are killed in this zone (*Life* magazine, May 21, 1971, p.41). I suspect that damage to the flora beyond the central, cleared area becomes negligible within a modest distance, but actual extent of damage will require on-site investigation. Recolonization by plants in the central, cleared zone seems to be fairly rapid, at least in the delta region. An Air Force officer familiar with the delta told us that a Commando Vault landing zone blasted out in that region looks green from the air within several weeks; it often becomes unusable within several months because of the regrowth of brush. Past experience suggests that the upland clearings will be quickly invaded primarily by Imperata grass and or a variety of low-growing, brushy bamboo spécies, all tenacious and worthless weeds.

The Daisy Cutter is, in the words of one military officer we met in Viet Nam, "a super bomb with super punch." MACV has been using these bombs on a steady basis for more than a year and a half now, apparently with no mention of them in the official daily, weekly, or monthly war news summaries. One senior Seventh Air Force officer explained to us, "they have such a devastating effect that we hate to give them much publicity."

The Commando Vault 7.5 ton bombs provide just one more means by which we casually rearrange the environment of Indochina with little if any concern about either the immediate or the long-term impact on the ecology of the area. I am painfully aware of how little in the way of biological data this report contains, but in providing the first detailed account of this new, indiscriminately wide-area weapon for the open literature, I hope that it will stimulate the necessary wildlife and other ecological studies as conditions permit.

ARTHUR WESTING

The Saigon ten thousand

THE *Baltimore Sun* on June 15 reported that the disclosure of a list of Ten Thousand had made a stir in Saigon. Has it something to do with the Ten Thousand Greeks who after unsuccessfully fought at Cunaxa, operated a dramatic retreat, under the command of Clearchus, then of Xenophon, its historian and laudator? No, it is only a list of South Vietnamese personalities marked out for execution on the "long night of terror" foreseen by President Nixon in his May 8 televised address. After getting hold of the 30-page document, a charitable soul soon circulated it as a warning for the would-be victims not to be overjoyed at the forthcoming appearence in Saigon of the Viet Cong, even under the respectable guise of members of a national coalition government.

Guess what was bound to happen. Contrary to the expectations of the US Embassy and the Independence Palace, none of the "condemned to death" asked to be sent to An Loc, Kontum or My Chanh to sell their life dearly nor any of their future widows flung herself at the GI's feet to implore them not to go home. Instead the "morituri" poohpoohed the move as a macabre and mean practical joke of Ellsworth Bunker's and Thieu's.

The list was a sheer fabrication. In the course of Viet Nam's multi-millenary history, no such atrocity has been recorded. After each victorious resistance against foreign aggression, the Vietnamese kings always accorded a full amnesty to those who had collaborated with the invaders. In 1954, immediately after the conclusion of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, President Ho Chi Minh also signed a decree for a general amnesty.

It was to uphold such a tradition of magnanimity and to check and foil in time all US and Thieu brutal and wicked machinations under "Vietnamization" that the RSVN PRG made public on January 25, 1972 a ten-point declaration regarding US-Thieu impress of our people's sons into their mercenary army.

According to the statement, officers and men of Saigon various arms and services, civil servants of the quisling administration and even members of US-Thieu police, an instrument of pillage and exploitation of the people and of repression of mass movements are not looked upon as enemies but as victims of the American policy of "pitting Vietnamese against Vietnamese" and "Asians against Asians." Those who go over to the people's armed forces "shall be well-treated by the population and revolutionary power who will comply with their wishes." Those who "maintain good relations with the people, try their best to protest the latter's life and property, resist US, Thieu and their henchmen's manœuvres, and give their sympathy and support to the mass movement will be accordingly rewarded for their services." As regards those who have committed crimes against the people and who show sincere repentance for their offences, point 10 of the declaration makes clear that "the people and revolutionary power will be clement" and "those who redeem their faults with good deeds will be given due rewards."

Juridically, the pronouncement of the PRG is inspired by the policy of great union, defined in the NFL political program and the Fundamental Resolution of the June 1969 People's Congress and can be construed as a formal promise for a general amnesty and recompense for those who cross over to the national liberation movement. The PLAF and the South Vietnamese people who have been fighting hard to drive out the Yankee aggressors, overthrow the Thieu rule and replace it with a tri-partite national concord government will certainly live up to their pledge whose fulfilment will bring about national concord and pave the way for the reconstruction of the devastated native land, economic and cultural rehabilitation and eventual reunification.

Clearly enough, the revelation of a list of ten thousand people to be disposed of was a US trick to smear the national liberation movement and split the ranks of the people. It was intimately related to the Nixon charge that the NFL and PRG wanted to impose on South Viet Nam a Communist government, though Mme Nguyen Thi Binh had suggested the formation of a caretaker government consisting of three components including members of the Saigon Administration favouring independence, peace and democracy.

WHO might be the author of the fake? Probably the same man who had drawn up the list of persons to be executed in Saigon raids of the "Phoenix" operations and under Saigon special or accelerated pacification program. To call a spade a spade, it was no other than the CIA, the sinister espionage and execution machinery of the US military-industrial complex, which has never stopped at any method of calumny, assassination or liquidation when the sordid interests of Yankee imperialism and colonialism are at stake.

The ten thousand were apparently people the CIA had tried vainly to win over to the Saigon regime and whose political lukewarmness it had planned to punish with attempts it would eventually shift the blame for on the Viet Cong.

One can cheat a certain number of people all the time. One can cheat the people for some time. But it is impossible to cheat the whole people all the time. That is what a great American, President Abraham Lincoln, has said. For 18 years, the South Vietnamese people have been exposed to various CIA duperies. But they will be no longer be fooled, nor will the fraction of them who, for economic reasons, have to live and work in US-Thieu occupied areas.

A student of the Van Hanh college murdered by Thieu, the butcher of Vietnamese patriots

The man in the street in Saigon is aware that assassination is no revolutionary method but a weapon of traitors and foreign aggressors. Ngo Dinh Diem used and abused it while Thieu has made away with number of people, including "deputies" like Tran Van Van and "politicians" like Nguyen Van Bong. He even went to the length of uttering this unveiled threat, on February 2, 1969 in Go Cong, against intellectuals and religious dignitaries: "Those people are causing our ruin. But we will make them die before we die."

Faced with the prospect of a total failure of their "Vietnamization," the US and Thieu are moving heaven and earth to retard the inevitable collapse of their abhorred rule. But what can slanders and murder menaces do where mass extermination means have come to grief. They will only embitter the hatred of our fellow-countrymen in Saigon and other enemy-controlled areas who will not let themselves be taken in and intimidated and will feel more attracted to the NFL and revolutionary power. The latter objects to only one man, Nguyen Van Thieu, of all officials and agents of the quisling regime.

XUAN KHANH

US AIR FORCE TAKES SOUND BEATING IN VIET NAM

FACED with the imminent collapse of their "Vietnamization" strategy, Nixon and Co. have recklessly gone further on their path of crime. They have deployed the greatest ever number of aircraft in the history of the Indochina war in utterly savage bombardments against the peoples in both zones of Viet Nam, in an attempt to stave off their mercenaries' destruction, to prevent the Vietnamese in the rear from giving assistance to their countrymen at the front, and to thwart the onslaughts of the People's Liberation Armed Forces. Yet, the extensive net of ground fire put up by the people and armed forces of the South and the North have exacted from the US imperialists heavy penalty for their foolishness, and reduced to naught their strategic move.

In the first three months of their new criminal escalation, they have suffered over 260 jet aircraft including close to ten B-52 strategic bombers downed by the combatants and people of North Viet Nam.

In the same period in South Viet Nam, nearly 1,000 of their aircraft including many of the much-vaunted AC-130 computerized gunships were blown to pieces.

It is a cogent proof of the determination and ability of the people and armed forces in both the two parts of Viet Nam to foil every US wicked manoeuvre.

On the communication front, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam have interfered, in a very effective manner, with enemy air transport. Right at the outset of their stormy offensives and uprisings they wove a dense flak against enemy means of transport. It was admitted by the US military spokesman in Saigon in April that the liberation forces had destroyed many important bridges and taken control of many lifelines, thereby making the "allied forces" rely heavily on US helicopters... Yet, he said, it was also very difficult for aircraft to operate because ground fire suddenly became very intensive.

The armed forces and people of South Viet Nam, making use of all kinds of weapons both conventional and sophisticated, have been active everywhere, even close to adverse positions. So much so that they have been able to knock out quantities of enemy planes. Whenever and wherever US air pirates appear they meet with strong fire. Even heavily escorted command ships ferrying high-ranking officers have been shot down. In the past 5 months, many US-Saigon brass among them John Paul Vann, the chief American advisor, the deputy-commander of the Saigon air force and the deputy-commander of the Saigon 7th Division, have perished in their planes. The anti-aircraft units of the Liberation Army, which can display deadly accuracy, have thus inflicted heavier losses on the US-Saigon air force while providing a more and more effective support for the other liberation services in many devastating combats. In the battle that saw the end of the enemy defence complex in Dong Ha (Quang Tri province), our anti-aircraft forces, within five days only, brought down 46 enemy planes of various kinds. On the Southern Thua Thien front, they grounded 26 US aircraft on the Southern bank of the My Chanh river in the week May 21 to 27. In the 45 days beginning mid-April those of the High Plateaux battered in the air or destroyed on the ground 140 US-Saigon aircraft. It has become a common practice to shoot down whole flights of enemy planes in a single engagement. Not a day has gone by without a number of enemy craft being shot down in one part of the South Viet Nam battlefield or another, in the Quang Tri-Thua Thien region, on the High Plateaux, in Eastern Nam Bo, in the Mekong River delta, etc. There have been days when enemy plane losses ran into the dozens. The ground fire is so lethal that US aircraft, on supply missions, no longer dare to fly at low altitudes. Supplies are dropped from thousands of feet and, more often than not, are seized by the liberation forces which sends the morale of the beleaguered down to new lows.

The liberation forces vigorously get at enemy planes whether the latter are on transport missions, on raids or on the ground. Now that the enemy is being drowned in the sea of flames of the people's war, the latter tactics has received great attention. Regional liberation forces have made deep inroads into enemy rear bases and airfields to inflict serious losses. Most of the adverse airfields, big and small, in South Viet Nam — from Quang Tri - Thua Thien to the Mekong river delta — have been subject to repeated onsets in the past three months. The airbases in Da Nang, Kontum, Bien Hoa and Vinh Long have been under fire again and again. Within five days ending April 18 the liberation forces mounted a series of assaults on the Da Nang and Nuoc Man airbases in Quang Da province, destroying or damaging 75 planes of all kinds including computerized gunships.

In a lightning action on the Thiet Dinh airfield in Binh Dinh province, guerillas and the regional forces wrecked or captured the whole lot of enemy equipment and storages there.

Reality of the South Viet Nam battlefield in the past three months has proved that despite the fielding of the greatest number of US aircraft and use of almost all the US airbases in Southeast Asia and of a permanent force comprising 6 or 7 aircraft-carriers off the coast of Viet Nam, the US has failed to improve the situation of the Saigon army, which has been disintegrating alarmingly. It was reported by the *Baltimore Sun* on May 19 that the Saigon army was being stretched to the utmost, that although it was still able to put up some resistance, there was nothing to guarantee that it would not further decline. On the other hand, as remarked by *AFP* on May 30, the liberation forces always have the initiative, and that despite US air support, the Saigon army can do nothing more than ducking and dodging, and with very little success at that.

So, the more craft the US throws into the fray, the more planes it will lose.

By expanding the air war on the Indochina battlefield, Washington hoped to deny the liberation main forces of all supplies. Yet, it had been pointed out by the Western press that the liberation forces' logistic system is very effective and is organized on a large scale. *AFP* said on May 16 that the liberation gunners, in more than a month, had fired tens of thousands of rounds on Saigon forces in An Loc, which shows that they had huge reserves of supplies, brought to the farthest ends of the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The same agency commented on May 28 that such a fact not only confirms the doubt one had had about the effectiveness of the US tactical air force and even of B-52's along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, but also makes it abundantly clear that the US air force is of no avail despite the most violent attacks in the war against the adversary's lifelines.

So, the US air force, the only trump left for Nixon, has failed to produce the desired effect.

THANH HONG

Kontum airfield attacked by the PLAF

1 B.52 blasted by a SAM missile

AS the sun sank behind the mountains, unit leader Vu Quang Trung and combat group 2 finished supervising the engines and devices. Everybody stood ready. The wary faces of the gunners lit by a crescent moon which shed its light on the artillery site. After days and nights of arduous marches, the whole unit was now in combat-readiness.

20.45 hour... Group 55 signalled the sight of enemy planes. The unit was on the alert. A group of B. 52s flew in from the south — west, escorted by 3 F4s which tried to ward off group fire by jamming out radar. But unit leader Trung saw through the enemy trick and recommended his men to tune in the B.52's signal. Teleguidance officer Nguyên Van Dinh and the combat crew keenly scrutinized the target. When the flight of B.52s was within gun range, commander Trung shouted the "go" order. The missile streaked into the sky while radarmen Trân Van Quân, Nguyên Van Tham, Cao Thiên Tac calmed zeroed in. On the luminous screen, a signal flared up. A thundering explosion was heard in the air: a US B.52 was blasted to pieces by a missile of the VNPA ack.

UNITS AND INDIVIDUALS cited Heroes

On May 19, 1972, the PRG Council of the RSVN issued a decision to confer the title of "Hero Unit" to 34 units and the title of "Hero" to 18 cadres and combatants of the South Viet Nam PLAF. The decision reads in full as follows :

THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIET NAM

Independence — Democracy — Peace — Neutrality

No 66/QDCP-BC

The Council of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam

Referring to the decision of the Congress of the People's Representatives of South Viet Nam,

In order to highlight and enhance the glorious tradition of the PLAF,

To commend the feats of arms of the South Viet Nam PLAF in the anti-US resistance for national salvation, particularly in the phase of defeating the US " Vietnamization " of the war and scoring the biggest gains in 1972,

Considering the revolutionary qualities, the exploits in combat and building the units of the PLAF and training cadres and combatants,

Abiding by the proposal of the Defence Ministry and the South Viet Nam PLAF Command,

DECIDES

Article 1 : To confer the title of " Hero Unit " to 34 units comprising :

1. Infantry Unit 6A. of the regular forces operating on the Tri-Thiên front.

2. Motorized Artillery Unit 3 of the regular forces operating on the Tri-Thiên front.

3. The 7th Battalion, Unit H. of the regular forces operating on Tri Thiên front.

4. The 15th Infantry Battalion operating on the Tri Thiên front.

5. The 33rd Battalion operating on the Tri Thiên front.

6. The 2nd Battalion, Artillery Unit B. operating on the Tri Thiên front.

7. The 17th Mortar Company, Unit 7 operating on the Tri Thiên front.

8. The 17th A.A. gun Company, Unit H. operating on the Tri Thiên Front.

9. The 23rd A.A. gun Company, 75th Battalion operating on the Tri Thiên front.

10. The 3rd armor Company, Unit T. operating on the Tri Thiên front.

11. The 24th Military Medical Company, Unit B. operating on the Tri-Thiên front.

12. The 1st Company, Unit 126 operating on the Tri Thiên front (rewarded for the 2nd time).

13. Group 4, Unit 126 operating on the Tri Thiên front.

14. Group 4 of regional force in Quang Tri province.

15. Medical Service Group 86 operating on the Tri Thiên front.

16. Village P., Thua Thiên province.

17. Ba Gia Infantry Unit of the regular force operating on the Central Trung Bô front.

18. Plei Me Infantry Unit of the regular forces operating on the High Plateaux front.

19. The 631st Infantry Battalion operating on the High Plateaux front.

20. The 406th Battalion operating on the Central Trung Bô front.

21. The 407th Battalion operating in Khanh Hoa province.

22. The 2nd Infantry Company, 394th Battalion operating on the High Plateaux front.

23. The 1st Sapper Company in Quang Da province (rewarded for the 2nd time).

24. The 1st Transport Company, Unit M. operating on the Central Trung Bô front.

25. The 1st Company, 405th Battalion, in Binh Dinh province.

26. Guerillas on village H., Quang Da province.

27. The 7th Infantry Company, Unit B. of the regular forces operating on the Eastern Nam Bô front.

28. The 1st Infantry Company, Binh Gia Unit operating on the Eastern Nam Bô front.

29. The 1st Infantry Company, Dong Xoai Unit operating on the Eastern Nam Bo front.

30. The 1st Air Defence Company, Unit H. operating on the Eastern Nam Bô front.

31. The 23rd Military Medical Company, Dong Xoai Unit operating on the Eastern Nam Bô front.

32. The 1st Company of regional forces in Tuyen Duc province.

33. Unit 2 of regional force in Binh Thuan province.

34. Unit A. of regional forces in Tay Ninh province.

Article 2 : To confer the title of " Hero of the South Viet Nam PLAF " to 18 comrades :

1. Le Xuan Tau, company commander of Armor Unit T. on the Tri Thiên front.

2. Doan Khac Luan, A.A. machine gun company commander, 75th Battalion, on the Tri Thiên front.

3. Ho Soi, Paco nationality, transport company commander, on the Tri Thiên front.

4. Nguyen Bach Y, Transport platoon leader, on the Tri Thiên front.

5. Le Xuan Senh, platoon leader, Unit 126, on the Tri Thiên front.

6. Duong Quang Bo, deputy-squad leader, Infantry Unit H. on the Tri Thiên front.

7. Tran Thi Tam, deceased, political instructor of village K., Quang Tri province.

8. Tran Phuoc Yen, deputy-squad leader, Unit K. on the High Plateaux front.

9. Ho Thi Ky, deceased, platoon leader, Unit C. on the Western Nam Bo front.

10. Nguyen Minh Chu, deputy battalion political instructor, Dong Xoai Unit, on the Eastern Nam Bo front.

11. Phan Huu Giang, deceased, deputy-platoon leader of the 2nd company, " Hero Unit " Unit H. on the Eastern Nam Bo front.

12. Nguyen Van Phung, deputy-platoon leader, Unit B. on the Eastern Nam Bo front.

13. Vi Van Vinh, artillery company commander, on the Eastern Nam Bo front.

14. Dinh Cong Chan, platoon leader of the 49th Transport Battalion, a hero unit, on the Eastern Nam Bo front.

15. Tran Van Chin, deputy reconnaissance company commander of the regional forces in Ba Ria-Long Khanh province.

16. Nguyen Tan Dinh, deceased, squad leader of the regular forces on the Southern Trung Bo front.

17. Tran Van Coi, deceased, deputy company commander of the regional forces in Tuyen Duc province.

18. Ngo Xuan De, deputy battalion political instructor of the regional forces in Tuyen Duc province.

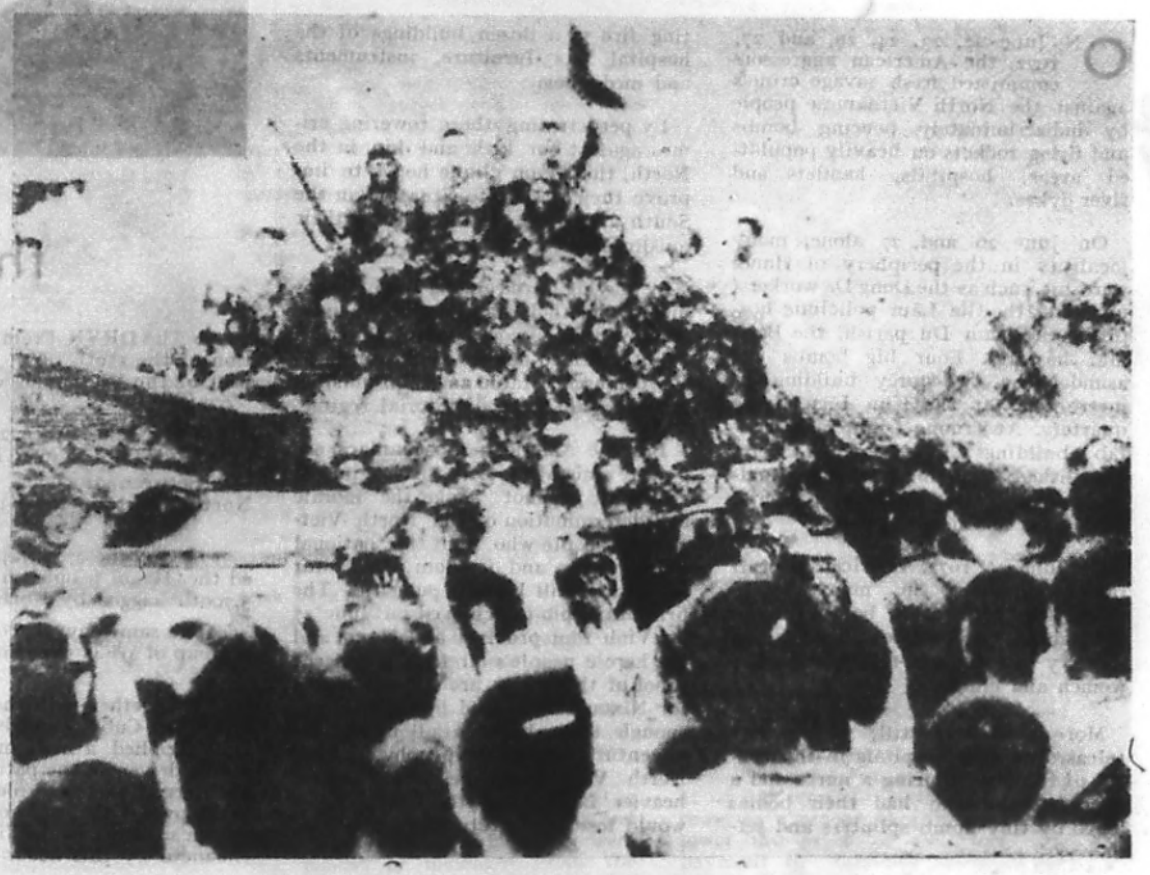
Article 3 : The office of the PRG President, the Defence Ministry and the South Viet Nam PLAF Command are in charge of the execution of the above decision.

SOUTH VIET NAM, May 19, 1972

The Council of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam

President

HUYNH TAN PHAT



The inhabitants in Quang Tri city welcoming the PLAF combatants

THE RESPONSIBILITY MUST REST WITH PRESIDENT NIXON

We publish hereunder an article contributed to Le Monde *of June 7 by French geographer* **Yves Lacoste,** *professor at the 8th University of Paris, Vincennes.* — Ed.

PEOPLE everywhere must declare right now that if the dykes in North Viet Nam break this summer, the responsibility for this genocide must rest with President Nixon, as it would if he ordered an atomic bombing. If bombardments simultaneously make a series of breaches in the dyke system along the Red River (because it is not necessary to destroy all the dykes to bring about the submersion of almost the whole of the plain) during the heavy swellings (especially from June to October), it is very likely that such a catastrophe will cause much more deaths in the Tonkin plain than an explosion of several atomic bombs would...

President Nixon has, in his statements, excluded the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons, because it is certainly difficult for him to assume alone the responsibility of such a heinous crime. But the risk of a genocide by submersion is much greater and more imminent, because US air forces can start it without Nixon's having to give the explicit order, which will enable him to deny all responsibility.

In fact, in the weeks to come the dykes can break without being hit directly. To have some ideas about it, one must analyse the tactics adopted by US air forces in the summers of 1965 and 1966 (these remarks based on hundreds of statements by the DRVN Government were made in a report I presented in 1967 to the "Russell Tribunal") with the dropping of large-sized bombs, not directly on the dykes, but at a distance of some one hundred metres, on the alluvial fold on which the Red River flows. The huge excavations thus caused have an effect of shock and depth undermining which can result in the overflow of not only part but the whole load of the waters on the plain.

Hundreds of actions of this kind were taken against the dykes of the North in the summers of 1965, 1966 and 1967. Of course, they were not followed by catastrophic floods. Obviously their purpose was to test a tactics and to blackmail rather than to provoke the catastrophe.

The bulk of these attacks had been launched at a precise moment—just before a particularly violent swelling of rivers, like the 14 attacks on the sea dykes in the districts of Tien Lang and Vinh Bao of Haiphong from July 27 to 31, 1966, when the rise of rivers and combining with the pressure of sea waters being pushed landward by the Typhoon Ora. Vast areas were then submerged.

Now the difficulties of the US Government in Indochina are such that the worst is to be feared. Already, even before the beginning of heavy swellings, many raids have been made to shake the dykes, like the ones on April 24 along the Ma river, which runs across the plain of Thanh Hoa. Unlike nuclear bombings, the responsibility for which will be evident, the submersion of the plains of the North can be indirectly provoked and can be imputed to a series of natural accidents...

One should not wait for another spectacular decision of President Nixon to protest. He does not have to take it. He will only let it be done. In a few weeks, the period of heavy swellings will begin. People everywhere must declare right now that if the dykes in the North break this summer, the responsibility for this genocide must rest with President Nixon, as it would if he ordered an atomic bombing.

YVES LACOSTE

THE HEROIC PEOPLE OF NORTH VIET NAM

are not cowed by American hardware

ON June 22, 23, 24, 26, and 27, 1972, the American aggressors committed fresh savage crimes against the North Vietnamese people by indiscriminately pouring bombs and firing rockets on heavily populated areas, hospitals, hamlets and river dykes.

On June 26 and 27 alone, many localities in the periphery of Hanoi were hit, such as the Dong Da workers' quarters, the Gia Lâm policlinic hospital, the Nam Du parish, the Bach Mai hospital. Four big bombs cut asunder the two-storey building 50 metre long at the Kim Lien living quarters. At Truong Dinh, many prefab buildings just erected were, demolished, resulting in many casualties among the workers, patients, physicians and hospital hands.

On June 20, 1972, American aircraft raided Haiphong in many waves showering perforation bombs on an area about 3 kilometres long, taking a heavy toll of lives, mostly oldagers, women and children.

More barbarous still, CBUS were released on two hospitals in the centre of the city injuring a nurse and a hospital hand who had their bodies holed by tiny bomb splinters and setting fire to a dozen buildings of the hospital, its furniture, instruments and medicines.

By perpetrating these towering crimes against our kith and kin in the North, the Nixon clique hopes to improve their desperate situation in the South and raise the morale of their quislings there.

By playing havoc among the civilians and razing their hamlets and villages, they wanted to compel our Northern countrymen to accept their terms at the conference table and their quisling Nguyen Van Thieu dictatorial regime.

But the American war maniacs are grossly mistaken. All their criminal adventure cannot shake the morale and determination of the North Vietnamese people who fight for national independence and freedom. Their war escalation will be duly punished. The brilliant exploits achieved on June 27 by Vinh Phu province and Hanoi and the heroic people's air force are cogent proof of this; they are stern warning for Nixon that should he be obdurate enough to embark headlong on his adventure against the people's war in North Viet Nam, he would court heavier failure and the US air force would lose further its "prestige."

Photo upper — *Haiphong home-guards ready to fire at the US air-marauders*

the DRVN in brief

• The DRVN Premier's office has just issued a decree on the commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Nguyen Dinh Chieu, the great patriotic poet of the Vietnamese people (July 1,1822-July 1, 1972).

• On June 17, 1972, 10 American jets were downed in North Viet Nam : 1 over Vinh Phu, 5 over Hanoi and 4 by the people's air force over Son La.

Between August 5, 1964 and June 27, 1972, the American aircraft lost in North Viet Nam total 3,704.

• On June 27, 1972, the Viet Nam People's Army High Command commended the Hanoi people on the downing of 5 American war planes (including the 3,700th bagged by North Viet Nam) and the capture of an American pilot.

The same day, it congratulated the people's air force on the grounding of a group of 4 F4s over Son La.

• Together with the Viet Nam-Czechoslovakia Friendship Hospital and the Viet Nam-Cuba Friendship Hospital, the Military Hospital 108 has successfully applied a new method to detect symptoms of disease: with a lighted needle driven in the patient's abdomen, the surgeon can see with his own eyes such organ as liver spleen. This process has enabled the Military Hospital 108 to discover with precision many dangerous diseases such as cancer, liver inflammation so difficult to find by routine methods. The therapeutic efficiency is enhanced by this accurate examination.

• Together with other modern and rudimentary means of transport and navigation, the steel-framed cement barger are used in increasing number in various fields: production, daily life, combat. They are known for their solidity waterproof, easy maintenance and regain work, greater security in case of collusion, heavier freight, lower transport charge than wooden haft. In Hai Hung province, they are built with a 25-30 ton capacity.

10th anniversary of Algeria's Independence

Proclamation (July 5, 1962 — July 5, 1972)

TEN YEARS OF GLORIOUS SUCCESS

TEN years ago, July 5, 1962 after nearly eight years fighting valiantly against the French colonialists, Algeria proclaimed her independence, thus ending the 132-year-old brutal rule of French colonialism.

Since then, under the leadership of the Algerian National Liberation Front Party and Government, and bringing into full play the tradition of undaunted struggle and creative labour, the Algerian people have recorded important achievements in the consolidation of independence and in national construction.

The Government of the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic has carried out many democratic reforms, creating favourable conditions for all strata of the people to take part in the building and the protection of the new life in the country. Algeria has nationalized mines, plantations, banks and other economic enterprises of foreign capitalists. The Algerian Government has promulgated decrees restricting the activities of foreign oil firms in Algeria, abolishing all concessions on oil extraction and keeping the whole oil extracting branch under the control of the central government. Along with the policy of nationalization aimed at wresting back from foreign capitalists the national resources, Algeria has built new factories in the recent years, thus broadening the state economic sector. The first establishments of heavy industry of Algeria, including the Annaba Iron and Steel Plant, the Skida Oil Refinery, the ammoniac and fertilizer factory and others have mushroomed in the country. The metallurgy, engineering and mine exploitation branches have rapidly developed. Foreign trade has also made leaping progress.

Agriculture has recorded good achievements. Thanks to successful irrigation and water conservancy works and intensive cultivation in the recent years, the country has reaped bumper harvests in wheat, dates and other fruit. Early this year, the Algerian Government has promulgated the law on agricultural reform. The Algerian people are now endeavouring to fulfil the four-year plan (1970-1973), concentrating their efforts on industrialization.

Significant successes have been recorded in the cultural, educational and health services. In the school year 1971-1972, the number of pupils and students reached over two million, an addition of tens of thousands of pupils as compared with that in the previous year. The contingent of scientific cadres and technicians has ever increased. The campaign against illiteracy and the dissemination of Arabic have been carried out successfully. National culture has been rapidly restored and developed.

The big progress obtained by the Algerian people over the past ten years proves how great are the potentialities of a nation which, once becoming master of its destiny, is building its future in conformity with its own aspirations. This is a greatly significant gain that the July 5, 1962 brought to the entire Algerian people.

The Algerian Democratic and People's Republic has ceaselessly struggled for the liberation and unification of Africa. Persistently keeping to its stand against imperialism, old and new colonialism, Algeria has relentlessly strengthened its militant solidarity with the fraternal peoples of the Arab countries in the fight against the Israeli aggressors, henchmen of the US, to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Arab countries and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, to further consolidate the friendly relations with the socialist countries and to actively support the national liberation movement. Algeria has worthily contributed her share to the common struggle of the peoples in Arab and other African countries. Her prestige has been ever raised in the international arena.

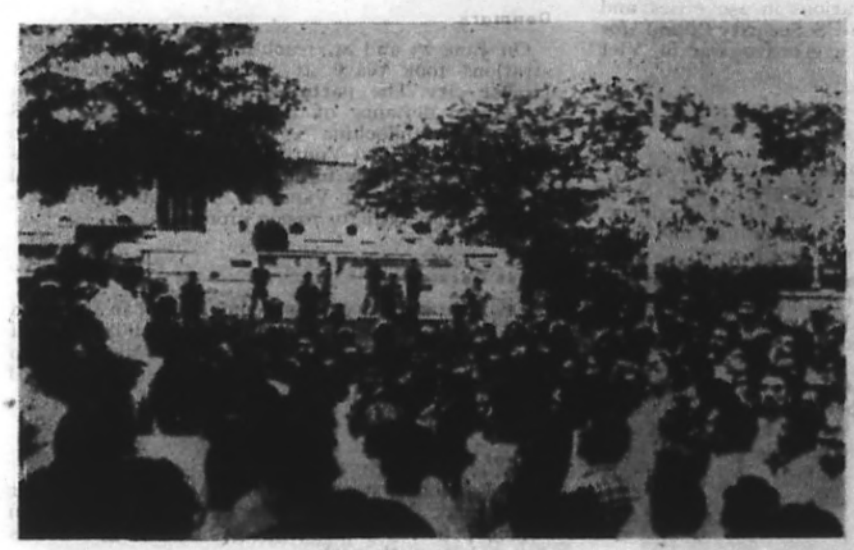
As companion-in-arm of the Algerian people, the South Vietnamese people are very glad at the glorious achievements recorded by the latter. Right from the outset of their extremely hard war of resistance, the peoples of Viet Nam and Algeria have ceaselessly encouraged and supported each other. The people, Government and National Liberation Front Party of Algeria have voiced warm sympathy with and actively supported the Vietnamese people's fight against US aggression, for national salvation. Algeria was the first country in Africa to accept the setting up of a Permanent Representation of the National Front for Liberation of South Viet Nam and one of the first countries to recognize the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government. President Houari Boumedienne and other Algerian leaders have on many occasions reaffirmed their unswerving solidarity with the Vietnamese people. The people, Government and National Liberation Front Party have manifested their ever deeper sympathy and stronger support for the Vietnamese people in their struggle against US aggression. Series of months and weeks of solidarity with the Vietnamese people organized by the Algerian people have fully manifested this close militant solidarity between the fighters against imperialism headed by US imperialism.

Recently, in face of the US war escalation in both zones of our country, the Algerian Government and people have strongly condemned the US crimes. In a message sent to President Nguyen Huu Tho and President Huynh Tan Phat on the occasion of the third founding anniversary of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, President Houari Boumedienne once again reaffirmed the "unshakable support of the Algerian people for the just struggle of the Vietnamese people."

The South Vietnamese people, the National Front for Liberation and the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government sincerely thank the people, the National Liberation Front Party and the Government of the Democratic and People's Republic of Algeria for their valuable support and assistance.

We take this opportunity to voice our sincere wish of greater success to the Algerian brothers in national defence and construction.

THE THIRD WORLD IN EFFERVESCENCE



New Delhi — *Protest meeting in front of the US Embassy against the bombing of North Viet Nam*

Thailand

In May 1972, patriotic armed forces launched a series of attacks on the enemy in South, North and North-East Thailand, wiping out more than 130 policemen, destroying a number of military vehicles and capturing a big haul of weapons and ammunition. In battles on May 9 in the provinces of Lakhorn, Nakhorn, Nakhorn Srithamarat and Surat Thani, they killed 33 enemy and wrecked a military vehicle.

The Philippines

Patriotic armed forces secured big successes in 1971, wiping out 600 enemy, punishing 230 thugs, destroying 4 aircraft, an amount of signal equipment and military vehicles. 12 major "sweeps," involving each from 300 to 3,000 troops, were thwarted.

In the enlarged free zone, revolutionary power and mass organizations have been set up. Agrarian reform has been initiated in some localities.

At present, the patriotic movement is quickly developing in Luzon and Western Visayan.

Mozambique

In 58 big and small scale operations from December 1971 to April 1972, patriotic armed forces knocked out 240 Portuguese colonial troops, 22 armoured cars, 6 military vehicles, 6 trains and 2 bridges and levelled off 9 posts and 2 concentration camps. They downed an enemy recon plane in the outskirts of Vilacabral and destroyed an enemy helicopter.

Western South Africa

Guerillas made deep thrusts into enemy-occupied areas and destroyed 4 military vehicles. In Caprivi alone, they drove with a mine white mercenaries out of an important base.

Oman

In March 1972, many guerilla actions of the National Liberation Front of Oman and the Persian Gulf resulted in the burning of garrisons of mercenary troops under the reactionary Oman administration in North-West Dofar. A large quantity of arms and munitions was seized by the patriots.

Irak and Syria

The bill on nationalization of all property belonging to the American and British IBC in Irak was made public on June 1, 1972.

5 hours later, in Bagdad was also proclaimed the nationalization of all property belonging to the same company in Syria.

These drastic measures elicited a rousing welcome from oil workers and people of Irak and Syria. They were also hailed in messages from the National Assemblies and Governments of Algeria, Lybia and Kuweit.

Argentina

On May 29, 190,000 workers in Cordoba province staged a 14-hour general strike to commemorate the 3rd anniversary of this province's workers' action against the US and the present dictatorial regime.

On the same occasion, a demonstration by students of the Philosophy and Literature faculties broke out in Buenos Aires.

Meanwhile, Argentinan guerillas stepped up their activities in many localities. An ambush on May 18, 1972 against two cars of the air force, resulted in their occupants being disarmed and the vehicles burnt out.

Peru

The American IPC was totaly nationalized on May 22. The Peruvim Minister for Mines and Electric Power announced that no compensations would be paid in return, instead Peru would press for the refunding of huge profits the company had been drawing in 44 years from illegal exploitation of oil. These sums amounted to 690 million dollars.

Panama

The American S.S. *Saramdity* was hailed on May 19 when she illegally intruded into Panama's territorial waters. The government of Panama confiscated all weapons found on board and compelled her to pay fines in compliance with local legislation.

On June 1, the Government of Panama also declared it would requisition the American Electric Company for 30 days and gave it a warning that it would be nationalized should it not abide by Panaman jurisdiction. It was a relevant response to this company's recent arrogant refusal to lower the price of electricity and payment to electricity users of part of its exhorbitant profits in compliance with a demand of the Government of Panama. The company instead threatened to cut off the electric current should the Panaman people not agree to the rate fixed by it.

Sweden's Prime Minister castigates US genocide in Viet Nam

IN a speech on June 26 at the Congress of the Swedish Social-Democratic Youth League, Prime Minister Olof Palme once again condemned US genocide and ecocide in Viet Nam, Stockholm-based *GPA* correspondent reported.

"The brutal US war in Viet Nam has supplied an opportunity for the US to test new weapons," Mr Palme said. "It is a war of modern technology with horrible consequences.

"It has led to massive destruction of the environment. The land is dotted with bomb craters, and the water-filled craters are breeding grounds for malaria-carrying mosquitoes. The future generations will find it hard to restore normal life and production.

"The bombings have been going on for years in Viet Nam to support ground operations. Now they become the essential. The 'Vietnamization of the war' policy means replacement of ground troops with air strikes.

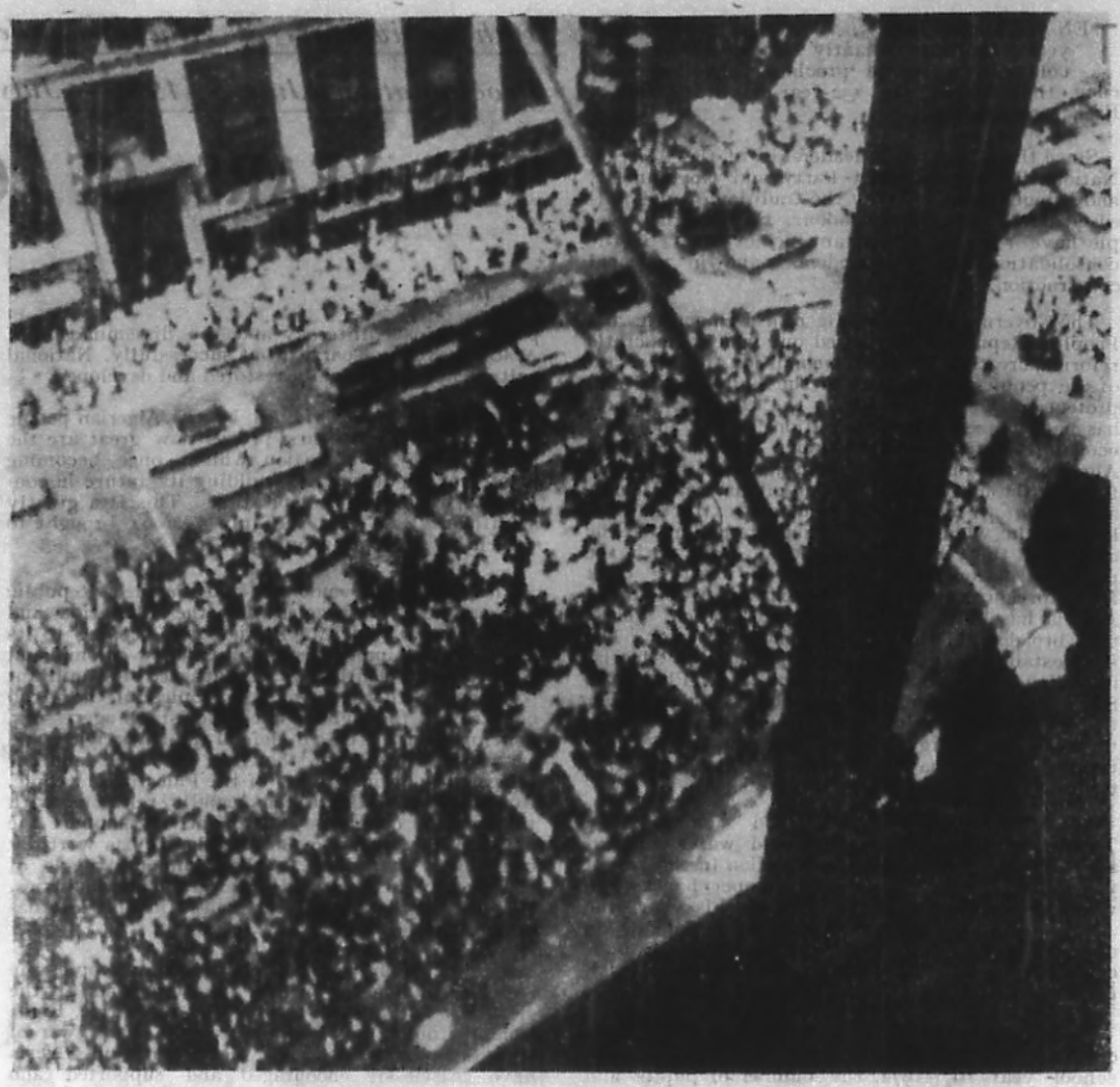
"This war is being automated and it appears as an anonymous war without the aggressor. But the evidence and victims of the bombings have clearly indicated who is the aggressor. Technology makes one feel one is not responsible for what one is doing. From a distance, the world's biggest war machinery can bomb and devastate land and crops, destroy cultural and economic establishments, bridges and communication roads, and kill civilians. The massive bombings over vast areas make no distinction between military targets and civilian populations, and extensive territories have been laid waste.

"Many types of anti-personnel bombs have been used in Viet Nam. They make no difference between soldiers and children. Dart-bombs cause serious wounds and damage inside the human body. Steel-pellet bombs send fragments in all directions above the ground. Now the pellets are made of plastics and they cannot be detected by X Ray. Phosphorous bombs are another type. The inflammables contain toxic substances. The wound cannot be healed unless the skin is removed.

"Destruction of human environment, massive bombings and use of anti-personnel bombs are 3 aspects of an all-out electronically controlled war which cares little about who is the casualty...

"One important political task of the world peoples at present is to do all they can to help stop at once the ecocidal and genocidal war in Viet Nam. The US is said to want to avoid humiliation in Viet Nam, that is, a military defeat. But the worst humiliation for the American people would be a US military win in Viet Nam. Victory in this type of war would be the biggest defeat."

Huge demonstration in New York against Nixon's senseless escalation of the war



in brief * in brief

Japan

On June 23, "Nationwide United Action Day," 150,000 workers, labouring people and students staged rallies and demonstrations in 250 cities and towns against the "Japan-US Security" and for cessation by the US of its aggressive war in Viet Nam.

Chile

On June 21, the Senate passed a resolution condemning the US war of aggression in Viet Nam, and sent a message to the US Senate and President, urging an end to North Viet Nam bombing and total withdrawal of US troops from Viet Nam.

A series of big rallies and a week of activities to show solidarity with Viet Nam, including "Support Viet Nam" talks, exhibitions and meetings, were organized in San Antonio and Santiago by students of the Christian University. The newly-founded Committee of Solidarity with Viet Nam (Punta Arenas in the southernmost part of Chile) has pushed up its drive to secure more moral and material support for the Vietnamese people's anti-US patriotic resistance.

Sweden

Rallies and demonstrations erupted in the past few days in such cities as Eslov, Motala, Uddovalla, Nykoping, Katrineholm, Jonkoping, Karlskrona, Sodertalje, Karlstad... and resolutions were passed condemning US bombing of North Viet Nam dykes and branding Nixon a war criminal.

The Congress of Social-Democratic Youth, which issued a statement against the US war of extermination in Viet Nam, also decided to present the South Viet Nam Liberation Youth Union and the Ho Chi Minh Labour Youth Union with 25,000 kronors each. The Congress of Liberal Youth Union and the Youth Union of the Liberal Party offered 5,000 kronors each to the South Viet Nam NFL.

Denmark

On June 23 and 24, teach-ins, rallies and demonstrations took place at Aarhus, Denmark's 2nd largest city. The participants paraded in the main streets in defiance of heavy rain, shouting "US get out of Indochina", "NFL will win". The Danish Communist Youth Union is stepping up its collection of money to build in Viet Nam a hospital named after Nguyen Van Troi. The sums contributed so far have run to 70,000 kronors.

West Germany

On June 27, 500 youths demonstrated in Manheim and distributed leaflets calling for solidarity with Viet Nam. They chanted "Bonn should give no money to Pentagon", "US imperialism, get out of Viet Nam, Cambodia, Laos!"

Great Britain

In London, a stand-in which takes place one hour every day in front of the US Embassy and in which petitions are handed against the VN war has entered its 10th week.

On June 22, demonstrators included journalists representing the *Times*, the *Guardian*, the *Financial Times*, the *Sun*, *Morning Star*, *Daily Mirror*... McClean, representing the Newsmen's Trade Unions, stressed that British journalists who had tried to keep an "impartial" attitude, have now realized that the US war in Viet Nam is a very dirty one, and consequently they felt it their responsibility to oppose it. Prior to this on June 21 took place a demonstration of Communist Party members from the West Middlesex branch.

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION